

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 15, 16 and 21 are amended and claims 14 and 17 are canceled without prejudice.

Applicant submits that the references to "corresponding points" in claims 1, 15 and 21 is definite and would be understood by one of skill in the art based on the earlier recited "points which correspond between the images", however, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 1, 15 and 21 to clarify this aspect of the claims.

While Applicant continues to respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the Jung '030 and '071 references (which disclose very similar technology), in the interests of expediting prosecution, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 15, 16 and 21 have been amended to include the element of "quantizing the range of attribute values of the corresponding points in the first image and second image in a relatively coarse manner", as claimed in claim 1 and similarly claimed in the other independent claims. Applicant submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest at least this element. Applicant further submits that one of skill in the art would readily understand the meaning of "relatively coarse manner".

Quantizing the range of attribute/pixel values of the corresponding points in a relatively coarse manner reduces the capacity (the number of bits) required to store the difference data of attribute/pixel values. This is advantageous in making more efficient use of memory and giving reduced bandwidth during transmission of the corresponding point file and in streaming the data in image processing. In this way, even if there is a large

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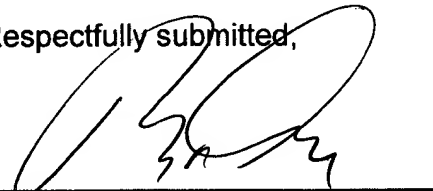
color, for example, difference between images, memory capacity requirements can be controlled by quantizing in a relatively coarse manner, that is, using a smaller number of bits to represent the attribute/pixel value and thus, the difference data on attribute/pixel values, than the number of bits used to represent the attribute/pixel value in the images.

Based on the forgoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 15, 16 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Applicant further submits that, for at least similar reasons as well as the additional limitations therein, the remaining claims, which are dependent on one of the independent claims, are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favourable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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